

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 9 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

On 6 March 2013, an armed terrorist group seized 21 personnel from the Filipino contingent attached to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the village of Jamlah, which is located near the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic cooperated fully with UNDOF command by unilaterally putting into effect a full ceasefire, in order to ensure the safety and security of members of the international forces and fulfil its responsibilities in that regard. It was, however, surprised to learn that the armed individuals had transferred the detained personnel to Jordan, instead of releasing them unconditionally and handing them over to the UNDOF leadership. This encourages armed terrorist groups to engage further in such conduct.

While the Syrian Government reaffirms its commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Agreement on the Disengagement of forces and allowing United Nations forces to carry out their mandate in the occupied Syrian Golan, it condemns the recent, repeated attacks against United Nations forces by armed terrorist groups. Those groups are exploiting the fact that the United Nations is disregarding the danger posed by their activities, which, thanks to the logistical support those groups receive from the Israeli occupation forces, are taking place in the United Nations forces' field of operations. This constitutes a blatant violation of the 1974 Agreement on the Disengagement of forces and places on Israel responsibility for the threat those groups pose to the safety and security of UNDOF troops and officials.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which has repeatedly warned of the consequences of the presence of terrorists in the area of separation, reaffirms that the United Nations must clearly and unequivocally condemn the attacks carried out by those armed terrorist groups against civilians in the area of separation and United Nations forces' troops. It also stresses that action must be taken to expel the terrorist groups from the area immediately and prevent them from infiltrating into it, and to hold responsible the States that are supporting their actions. The Government is of the view that ignoring the threat posed by the presence of those groups in the



area of separation poses a multitude of dangers for the region, dangers that could threaten its stability and the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bashar Ja'afari
Ambassador
Permanent Representative